24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

From the tongue of land we pass the fish-market, where a lively trade in the dwellers of the sea, here so multifarious, is carried on from early morning till late in the evening. The shark seems to be the commonest fish. Sacks full of dried and salted shark's flesh are sent into the interior, where, in times of prosperity, the Bedouins and townsfolk enjoy a piece of it with their frugal meal of bread and rice. The smell of badly dried and, consequently, somewhat decaying fish accompanies the traveller far into the wādīs of Ḥaḍramaut.

The bazaar of Makalla has more penetrating odours than is usual elsewhere. Not far from the fish-market are the workshops where loin-cloths and head-cloths are dyed a dull blue-black with indigo, and this trade also has sickening, nauseating smell. The workers and their houses are covered with a layer of indigo.

A more attractive trade than these is plied in this long street of the bazaar — that of the weavers and lace-makers. They weave narrow lengths of cloth with brightly coloured stripes and with very attractive fringes, which are woven separately.

All sorts of sweets were offered for sale at the booths; also the first bright-yellow or deep-red dates, not yet quite ripe, tuberous fruits, spices, the celebrated Ḥumūmī tobacco in big bundles consisting of whole dried plants; broad waist-bands, Japanese, Indian and Dutch piece-goods, sugar-loaves and rice, coffee-beans and dried coffee-husks, ginger-root and tea from Ceylon and Java, various kinds of grain, meal and *samn*, sesame oil and kerosene, matches and coffee-cups, *djambiyas*[1] and cartridges.

We wandered through this storehouse of Ḥaḍramaut. The salesmen had lighted their reeking lamps and torches stuck in bottles; one could only pass slowly through the swarming crowd with the smoke of the lamps mingling with the heavy odour emanating from men and things. As in a dream we

[1] *Djambiya*, correctly spelled *djanbiya* (جنبية), is a broad, curved dagger worn in the waist-band in front of the body.

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Hadhramaut MM21

Spinning, weaving, and dyeing are also common industries. Cotton is spun into thread by hand-spindles and then woven in hand-looms, and sometimes machine-made yarns or twists are used in the same way; the looms are of the very simplest construction. The industry is still carried on to a small extent at Aden, and somewhat more extensively at a few centres in the interior, notably at Nisāb and Markhah, which are situated in the cotton and indigo growing district of the 'Aulaqi country; here a large amount of cotton fabrics for tribal shawls and turbans is made. The stuffs, when required, are dyed with locally prepared indigo. Sauma'ah, a town in the Beida country, is famous for a special make of goat-hair carpets.

Charcoal burning is an industry carried on at several places in the interior, among the wooded slopes of the hilly districts. Potash is also manufactured from a product known as 'Aden balsam'; this is not found in any quantity in Aden itself, but is prepared in the 'Abdāli and Fadhli districts. The balsam is thrown into small pits about two feet wide and one deep, and wood is added; the mass is then set fire to, and as the sap exudes from the plant it mingles with the ashes; the mixture is stirred and allowed to cool; then it is dug up and sent into Aden on camels, for sale. The price is about 8 annas per maund of 28 lb., and the potash is exported to Bombay for washing purposes. A primitive form of distilling is also in vogue, the natives producing a liquor from dates which have been placed in water and allowed to disintegrate. The industry is carried on at Aden (under certain restrictions) and other places.

Trade

Practically the whole of the trade of this region is centred in Aden—local trade as well as general. The trade of the only other notable port of this littoral, Shūghrah (and even that of Makalla in Hadhramaut), is restricted and purely local in character, and is entirely subservient to that of Aden.

The total value of the trade of Aden (import and export), in round numbers, for the last two years has been:

1913–14	£8,530,000
1914–15	£6,940,000.

This falls into two categories: Transhipment trade, and Inland (or local) trade. Comparative figures for the year 1914–15, were:

Transhipment	£6,682,000
Inland	£258,000.